

Trends Analysis Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting held March 1, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Child and Family Services Administrative Building

In attendance: Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Beverly Hart, Carol Miller, Dawn Hollingsworth, Jeff Harrop, John Perkins, Judy Hull, Linda Wininger, Marty Shannon, Mary Wilder, Navina Forsythe, Sam Syphrett (by phone), Tanya Albornoz, Tonya Myrup

Policy Attachments

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Assignments
Policy attachments are currently being updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As more policy attachments are being added to bring them in-line with our practice requirements, it is proposed that attachments that say “not complete” be eliminated. This would keep the total number of attachments from becoming too big. This means that when a caseworker doesn’t complete the required task for no valid reason (i.e. “just didn’t do it”), he/she needs to get a documented exception from their supervisor for the action item to “disappear”. This may cause an increase in workload for supervisors and they may want to keep the “not complete” option. On the other hand, it allows supervisors to know exactly when workers miss a required action. Policy attachments were created to meet the CPR requirements.In the latest round of CPRs, data is showing that about 40 percent of cw contacts with fathers and mothers are being completed. This leaves approximately 60 percent of required contacts that may need to be approved as a documented exception by supervisors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was suggested that there only be two options available: workers complete the task or need to get a documented exception approval from their supervisor.For out-of-state cases, workers need to document when the visits are completed by the out-of-state worker.Aude and Jeff plan to develop some on-line instructions for staff when the new policy attachments are launched.When the court determines there is no legal father, workers need to enter that court hearing date as the TPR date. This will be included in the policy attachment instructions and in SAFE helps (Navina).

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Annual Report

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Assignments
Number of CPS Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the last ten years, we have investigated approximately 20,000 cases per year. About 40% of our cases are supported, more than in other states; the national average is in the twenties. The majority of our victims are very young (69% are 10 and under). Perpetrators are usually the victim's parents, stepparents, or adoptive parents (75%), and they are mostly young parents. Domestic violence (DVRCA) is our greatest supported allegation type (33%), which has steadily increased. Supported domestic violence cases, however, do not hold up in Administrative Hearings. Sarah Houser and Marnie Maxwell are addressing this in the CPS Committee discussions. 	
In-Home Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of clients served by PSS and PSC cases has declined, and home studies (IHS code) have increased. 	
Kinship Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of children in foster care being placed with kin has increased, and children placed with kin receiving In-Home Services has decreased. This reflects our practice of getting kin licensed. Aunts and uncles become licensed more often than they receive guardianship of the children. Re-entries into foster care of children being placed with kin has decreased significantly (from over half to 24% in six years). The average months in care has increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navina will make the re-entry and average months in care report available by region.
Out-of-Home Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children receiving Out-of-Home Care Services has increased. One of the reason may be licensing kin and the Adam Walsh Act in FY07. Over one-third of children reunify with their parents within about one year. The percentage of youth aging out of care and their length in custody are high (this will be addressed in the PIP). Re-entry into care is decreasing. Contrary to the main belief, the percentage of youth age 14 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Prince is fixing the Custody and Guardianship to Relative percentages report as the data are incorrect. It was suggested that we begin to track the number of youth being adopted. Tanya and Marty will work on this item.

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	<p>and older placed into Out-of-Home Care has remained steady for several years (around 40%). This report can be pulled from SAFE, broken down by region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoptions from Out-of-Home Care have increased, and the number of adoptions from Kinship In-Home Services has decreased. Pie charts showing the age breakdowns of this population are available in the Annual Report. Our time to adoption is improving. 	
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of our funding comes from state dollars. Contracts and services are the highest funded item, with personnel being next. Funds for Out-of-Home and Kinship Care is considerably larger than for In-home services (not sure if this graph includes personnel). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be interesting to see these graphs over time. The Finance Team may be able to provide this information. Committee members can contact the Finance Team if they have questions on these funding graphs.

Current Trends for Second Quarter FY2011

Topic	Discussion	Decisions/Assignments
New and Closed In-Home Services Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, more In-Home Services cases are being closed than opened, but there are regional differences. This may reflect the funding cuts that force us to put our limited resources in out-of-home cases at the expense of our in-home families. And as a result, we have more children in care. IHS case type is not an In-Home Service but is to be used for home studies only. Inclusion of these case types may be skewing these data. When our In-Home Services model is defined, these data will be clearer. If there are abuse or neglect concerns, we should not use the CCS or CIS case types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navina suggested that we eliminate PFR and add reunification as a primary case reason; eliminate PAT and add post-adoption services as a primary case reason; add a checkbox to PFP to indicate if it is court ordered; and eliminate the code CCS but keep CIS with subtypes until the In-Home Services model is defined. Navina will present these suggested changes to the In-Home Services Committee.

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Average Length of Time of Closed In-Home Services Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the length of services has decreased, but there are regional differences. 	
Number of Out-of-Home Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has steadily increased, but is slightly down for this quarter. Salt Lake Valley and Northern Regions have been closing more cases than they have been opening. 	
Supported CPS Cases within 12 Months of Leaving Out-of-Home Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These numbers are steadily decreasing. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children Exiting to Adoption Under 24 Months Median Month for Adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are increasing in this item. However, we must be cautious because most of these children are under six years old, and we need to increase these numbers for older children. Also, it raises the question whether we are rushing towards adoption without providing biological parents sufficient help to reunify with their children. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in Care 17 or More Months, Exiting to Adoption Children in Care 17 or More Months, becoming Legally Free Within 6 Months Legally Free Children Who are Adopted Within 12 Months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are decreasing in these measures at an alarming rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navina will see if this may be due to a programming error and will let Aude know so she can share the results with the group.
Placement Stability Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are nearing these goals, with a steady increase in all three of these measures. Western Region seems to do very well in these areas due to their available supports for structured foster parents, partnership with their mental health partners, a structured placements cluster group, competent RFCs, and non-use of shelters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group members are encouraged to talk with Western and Southwest Regions about their efficient use of their RFCs to support placements. Tanya will address the DSPD placements issues at the next

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southwest Region is also doing well with their RFCs.• Level I placements have increased, and Level III placements have decreased. The number of children placed in proctor homes (level IV) is greater than those placed in structured homes (level III).• DSPD placements are on the rise. Children who do not qualify for DSPD services but are placed in RISE homes, professional parents, and these types of placements are now paid for by state dollars, with no federal match! Please, let people in your region know this.• The Legislative Audit encourages us to keep children in lower levels of care. To accomplish this, we will need to look at our use of RFCs.• We have lost a significant amount of foster parents due to budget cuts.	meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **June 7, 2011 from 10am to 12pm.**